

# NIT

The tender leaves of hopes, to-morrow blossoms,  
And bears his blushing honours thick upon him;  
The third day comes a frost, a killing frost;  
And when he thinks, good easy man, full surely  
His greatness is a ripening, *nips* his root;  
And then he falls as I do. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*

A flower doth spread and dye,  
Thou wouldst extend me to some good,  
Before I were by frost's extremity *nip*t in the bud. *Herb.*

His delivery now proves  
Abortive, as the first-born bloom of spring,  
*Nipt* with the lagging rear of winter's frost. *Milton.*

Had he not been *nipped* in the bud, he might have made a  
formidable figure in his own works among posterity. *Add.*

From such encouragement it is easy to guess to what per-  
fection I might have brought this great work, had it not been  
*nipt* in the bud. *Arbutnot's John Bull.*

4. To pinch as frost.  
The air bites shrewdly, it is very cold. —  
It is a *nipping* and an eager air. *Shakesp. Hamlet.*

When itches hang by the wall,  
And Dick the shepherd blows his nail;  
When blood is *nip*t, and ways be foul,  
Then nighty sings the staring owl. *Sba. Love's L. Left.*

5. To vex; to bite.  
And sharp remorse his heart did prick and *nip*,  
That drops of blood thence like a well did play. *Fairy Q.*

6. To fatigue; to ridicule; to taunt facetiously.  
But the right gentle mind would bite his lip  
To hear the javel to good men to *nip*. *Hulbert's Tale.*

Quick wits commonly he in desire new-fangled; in pur-  
pose unconstant; bold with any person; busy in every mat-  
ter; soothing such as be present, *nipping* any that is absent.  
*Afcham's Schoolmaster.*

**NIP**. *n. f.* [from the verb.]  
1. A pinch with the nails or teeth.  
I am sharply taunted, yea, sometimes with pinches, *nips*,  
and bobs. *Afcham's Schoolmaster.*

2. A small cut.  
What this a sleeve? 'tis like a demicannon;  
What up and down carv'd like an apple-tart?  
Here's *nip*, and *nip*, and cut, and slash, and slash,  
Like to a censer in a barber's shop. *Shakespeare.*

3. A blast.  
So hasty fruits and too ambitious flowers,  
Scorning the midwifery of ripning shows,  
In spite of frosts, spring from th' unwilling earth,  
But find a *nip* untimely as their birth. *Stepney.*

4. A taunt; a sarcasm.

**NIPPER**. *n. f.* [from *nip*.] A satirist. Out of use.

**NIPPER**. *n. f.* [from *nip*.] Small pinners.

**NIPPERINGLY**. *adv.* [from *nip*.] With bitter sarcasm.

**NIPPLE**. *n. f.* [nipple, Saxon.]

1. The teat; the dug; that which the sucking young take in-  
to their mouths.  
Thou' tender 'tis to love the babe that milks me. —  
I would, while it was smiling in my face,  
Have pluck'd my *nipple* from his boneless gums. *Shakesp.*

In creatures that nourish their young with milk, are adapt-  
ed the *nipples* of the breast to the mouth and organs of suc-  
tion. *Ray on the Creation.*

2. The orifice at which any animal liquor is separated.  
In most other birds there is only one gland, in which are  
divers little cells ending in two or three larger cells, lying  
under the *nipple* of the oil bag. *Derham's Physico Theol.*

**NIPPLEWORT**. *n. f.* [Lampfana.] A very common weed.

**NISI PRIUS**. *n. f.*

[In law.] A judicial writ, which lieth in case where the  
inquest is pannelled, and returned before the justices of the  
bank; the one party or the other making petition to have  
this writ for the ease of the country. It is directed to the  
sheriff, commanding that he cause the men impanelled to  
the sheriff, commanding that he cause the men impanelled to  
come before the justices in the same county, for the deter-  
mining of the cause there, except it be so difficult that it  
need great deliberation: in which case, it is sent again to  
the bank. It is so called from the first words of the writ  
*nisi apud talem locum prius venerint*; whereby it appeareth,  
that justices of assizes and justices of *nisi prius*, differ. So  
that justices of *nisi prius*, must be one of them before whom  
the cause is depending in the bench, with some other good  
men of the county associated to him. *Cowd.*

**NIT**. *n. f.* [nitru, Saxon.] The egg of a louse, or small  
animal.

The whame, or burrel-fly, is vexatious to horses in sum-  
mer, not by stinging them, but only by their bombilyous  
noise, or tickling them in sticking their *nit*, or eggs, on the  
hair. *Derham's Physico Theol.*

**NITENCY**. *n. f.* [nitentia, Latin.]

1. Lustre; clear brightness.

# NIT

2. [From the Latin, *nitro*.] Endeavour; spring to expand it-  
self.

The atoms of fire accelerate the motion of these particles;  
from which acceleration their spring, or endeavour outward  
will be augmented; that is, those zones will have a strong  
*nitency* to fly wider open. *Boyle.*

**NITING**. *n. f.* A coward, dastard, poltroon.

**NITID**. *adj.* [nitidus, Latin.] Bright; shining; lustrous.

We restore old pieces of dirty gold to a clean and *nitid* yel-  
low, by putting them into fire and aqua fortis, which take  
off the adventitious filth. *Boyle on Chym.*

**NITRE**. *n. f.* [nitru, Fr. nitrum, Latin.]

The salt which we know at this time, under the name of  
*nitre* or salt-petre, is a crystalline pellucid, but somewhat  
whitish substance, of an acrid and bitterish taste, impressing  
a peculiar sense of coldness upon the tongue. This salt,  
though it affords, by means of fire, an acid spirit capable of  
dissolving almost every thing, yet manifests no sign of its  
containing any acid at all in its crude state. *Nitre* is of the  
number of those salts which are naturally bleached in imper-  
ceptible particles in earths, stones, and other solid sub-  
stances, as the particles of metals are in their ores; it is  
sometimes however found pure, in form of an effluence,  
either on its ores or on the surface of old walls; these ef-  
fluences dissolved in proper water, shooting into regular  
and proper crystals of *nitre*. That this salt should be found  
on the surface of walls is not wonderful, since it is found  
only on or near the surface of the earth where it is produced.  
The earth from which *nitre* is made, both in Persia and the  
East-Indies, is a kind of yellowish marl found in the bare  
cliffs of the sides of hills exposed to the northern and eastern  
winds, and never in any other situation. From this marl  
the salt is separated by water; but the crystals into which it  
shoots, as we receive them from the East-Indies, are small,  
imperfect, and impure. Earths of whatever kind, moistened  
by the dung and excrement of animals, frequently afford *ni-  
tre* in large quantities. The earths at the bottom of pigeon-  
houses, and those of stables and cow-houses, all afford *ni-  
tre*, on being thrown into water and boiled. In France, where  
very little *nitre* is imported, they make it from the rubbish  
of old mortar and plaster of buildings; and the mortar of  
old walls with us, if moistened with urine and exposed to  
the air in a proper situation that is open to the north east,  
and covered over to defend it from wet, never fails to afford  
*nitre* in a few weeks, and that in proportion as one tenth of  
the weight of the ingredients. There is no question but a  
manufactory of *nitre* might be established in England to as  
much advantage as that of France. The place where the  
materials are exposed, is to be carefully examined. It must  
be moderate as to the great points of moisture and dryness;  
if there be too much moisture the *nitre* which is already  
formed will be washed away, and without some moisture  
the salts will hardly be ever formed. Heat and coldness,  
unless excessive, can be of no consequence. It is on account  
of the requisiteness of so certain a degree of moisture to the  
materials from which *nitre* is obtained, that the north east  
winds are of so much use in the production of it. In spring  
and autumn, which are the seasons when this salt is prin-  
cipally made, these two winds are neither too moist nor too  
dry, especially in the night; the south and west winds are  
destructive, because they bring storms and showery. In me-  
dicine, *nitre* is cooling and diuretick, and good in burning fe-  
vers. The natrum or *nitre* of the ancients, is a genuine, na-  
tive, and pure salt, extremely different from our *nitre*, and from  
all other native salts; being a fixed alkali plainly of the na-  
ture of those made by fire from vegetables, yet being ex-  
posed to a regular crystallization, which those salts are in-  
capable of. It is found on or very near the surface of the earth, in thin  
flat cakes, spongy, light, and friable; and when pure, like  
a pale brownish white colour. It is of an acrid taste, like  
pot-ashes. About Smyrna and Ephesus, and through a great  
part of Asia Minor, this salt is extremely frequent on the  
surface of the earth, and also in Sindy, a province of the  
inner Asia, where they sweep it up and call it soap-earth,  
using a solution or lye of it in washing. The natrum or *ni-  
tre* of the ancients, has been by some supposed to be a salt  
substance, and by others to be the same with our *nitre*, this  
salt-petre; but both these opinions are erroneous, the salt  
being the true natum of the ancients, answering precisely  
to its description, and having all its uses and virtues. In  
scripture we find that the salt called *nit*, would ferment with  
vinegar, and had an absterive quality, properties which pre-  
sently agree with this salt but not with salt-petre, so do many  
different qualities ascribed to it by the ancients. *Isa. 41.*

Some tumulus of *nit*,  
Influct with fire and *nit*, hurried him.  
Some steep their feet, and some in sandal-wood  
With vigorous *nitre* and with lees of oil.  
**NITROUS**. *adj.* [nitrox, Fr. from *nit*.] In chemistry  
*nitre*; consisting of *nitre*.

# NOB

Earth and water, mingled by the heat of the sun, gather  
a *nitrous* fumes more than either of them have severally.  
*Bacon's Natural History.*

The northern air being more fully charged with those  
particles supposed *nitrous*, which are the aliment of fire, is  
fittest to maintain the vital heat in that activity which is suf-  
ficient to move such an unweildy bulk with due celerity. *Ray.*

He to quench his drought to much inclin'd,  
May snow fields and *nitrous* pastures find,  
Meet flocks of cold so greedily purfu'd,  
And be refresh'd with never-wasting food. *Blackmore.*

**NITRY**. *adj.* [from *nitru*.] Nitrous.

Winter my theme confines; whose *nitry* wind  
Shall crust the flabby mire, and kennels bind. *Gay.*

**NITTI**. *adv.* [from *nitru*.] Lowly.

One Bell was put to death at Tyburn for moving a new  
rebellion; he was a man *nitte* needy, and therefore ad-  
venturous. *Hayward.*

**NITTY**. *adj.* [from *nit*.] Abounding with the eggs of lice.

**NITVAL**. *adj.* [nitidus, Latin.] Abounding with snow. *Dist.*

**NITROUS**. *adj.* [nitrox, Latin.] Snowy; resembling snow.

Cinabar becomes red by the acid exhalation of sulphur,  
which otherwise presents a pure and *nitrous* white. *Brown.*

**NITRY**. *n. f.* A dunce; a simpleton. A low word.

**NO**. *adv.* [na, Saxon.]

1. The word of refusal.

Our courteous Antony,  
Whom ne'er the word of *no*, woman heard speak,  
Being barber'd ten times o'er, goes to the scaffold.  
Henceforth my wooing mind shall be express'd,  
In rusted yens and honest kerly *noes*. *Sha. L. Labours Lost.*

If you will not consider these things now, the time will  
shortly come when you shall consider them whether you will  
or no. *Colum's Sermon.*

2. The word of denial opposite to concession or affirmation.  
I think it would not fort amiss, to handle the question,  
whether a war for the propagation of the Christian faith,  
without another cause of hostility, be lawful or *no*, and in  
what cases? *Bacon.*

3. It sometimes confirms a foregoing negative.

My name's Macbeth: —  
The Devil himself could not pronounce a title  
More hateful to mine ear. —  
No, nor more fearful. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

Never more  
This hand shall combat on the crooked shore;  
No; let the Grecian pow'r's oppress in fight,  
Unhappy'd perish in their tyrant's sight. *Dryd. Homer.*

4. It sometimes strengthens a following negative; *no* not, not even.

No not the bow which so adorns the skies,  
So glorious is, or boasts so many dics. *Waller.*

**NO**. *adj.*

1. Not any; none.

Let their be *no* strife between me and thee. *Gen. xiii. 8.*

When an ad fool are two hard things to hit,  
For true *no* meaning puzzles more than wit. *Pope.*

2. It focuses an adjective in these phrases, *no* longer, *no* more,  
*no* when.

When we saw that they were *no* where, we came to Sa-  
muel. *1 Sam. x. 14.*

In vain I reach my feeble hands to join  
In sweet embraces; ah! *no* longer thine. *Dryden.*

3. *No* one; none; not any one.

No one who doeth good to those only from whom he ex-  
pects to receive good, can ever be fully satisfied of his own  
sincerity. *Smalridge's Sermon.*

**TO NOBILITATE**. *v. a.* [nobilite, Latin.] To ennoble; to  
make noble.

**NOBILITY**. *n. f.* [nobilitas, Latin.]

1. Antiquity of family joined with splendour.

When I took up Boccace unawares, I fell on the same  
argument of preferring virtue to nobility of blood, and titles,  
in the story of Sigismunda. *Dryden, Fab. Pref.*

Long galleries of ancestors,  
Challenge, nor wonder, or esteem from me,  
« Virtue alone is true nobility. » *Dryden.*

2. Rank or dignity of several degrees, conferred by sovereigns.

Nobility in England is extended to five ranks; duke, mar-  
quis, earl, viscount, baron.

3. The persons of high rank; the persons who are exalted  
above the commons.

It is a purpose'd thing,  
To curb the will of the nobility. *Shakesp. Coriolanus.*

4. Dignity; grandeur; greatness.

Though the hated Amphilus, yet the nobility of her cou-  
rage prevailed over it; and she desired he might be pardoned  
that youthful error; considering the reputation he had to be  
the best knight in the world, so as hereafter he governed  
himself, as one remembering his fault. *Sidney, b. ii.*

But ah, my muse, I would thou hadst facility  
To work my goddesses so by thy invention,  
On me to cast those eyes where shine nobility. *Sidney.*

# NOB

Base men, being in love, have then a nobility in their na-  
tures more than is native to them. *Shakespeare's Othello.*

They thought it great their sovereign to controul,  
And nam'd their pride, nobility of soul. *Dryden.*

**NOBLE**. *adj.* [noble, Fr. nobilis, Latin.]

1. Of an ancient and splendid family.

2. Exalted to a rank above commonalty.

From virtue first began,  
The difference that distinguish'd man from man;  
He claim'd no title from descent of blood,  
But that which made him noble, made him good. *Dryd.*

3. Great; worthy; illustrious.

Thus this man died, leaving his death for an example of  
a noble courage, and a memorial of virtue. *2 Mac. vi. 31.*

To vice industrious, but to nobler deeds *Milton.*

Timorous.  
A noble stroke he lifted high,  
Which hung not, but with tempest fell. *Milt.*

Those two great things that so engross the desires and de-  
sires of both the nobler and ignobler sort of mankind, are  
to be found in religion; namely, wisdom and pleasure. *South.*

4. Exalted; elevated; sublime.

My share in pale Pyrene I resign,  
And claim no part in all the mighty nine;  
Statues, with winding ivy crown'd belong  
To nobler poets, for a nobler tongue. *Dryd.*

5. Magnificent; stately; as, a noble parade.

6. Free; generous; liberal.

7. Principal; capital; as, the heart is one of the noble parts of  
the body.

**NOBLE**. *n. f.*

1. One of high rank.

Upon the nobles of the children of Israel he laid not his  
hand. *Ex. xxiv. 11.*

How many nobles then should hold their places,  
That must strike fail to spirits of vile sort! *Shakesp.*

What the nobles once said in parliament, Nolumus leges Ang-  
lia mutari, is imprinted in the hearts of all the people. *Bacon.*

The nobles amongst the Romans took special care in their  
last wills, that they might have a lamp in their monuments.  
*Wilkin's Math. Magic.*

See all our nobles begging to be slaves,  
See all our fools aspiring to be knaves. *Pope, Dial. i.*

It may be the disposition of young nobles, that they ex-  
pect the accomplishments of a good education without the  
least expence of time or study. *Swift's Modern Education.*

The second natural division of power, is of such men  
who have acquired large possessions, and consequently de-  
pendencies; or descend from ancestors who have left them  
great inheritances, together with an hereditary authority;  
these easily unite in thoughts and opinions. Thus com-  
mences a great council or senate of nobles, for the weighty  
affairs of the nation. *Swift.*

2. A coin rated at six shillings and eight-pence; the fun of  
six and eight-pence.

Shortly after he coined nobles, of noble, fair, and fine gold.  
*Camden's Remains.*

Many fair promotions  
Are daily given, to noble those  
That scarce, some two days since, were worth a noble. *Sha.*

Upon every writ procured for debt or damage, amounting  
to forty pounds or more, a noble, that is six shillings and  
eight-pence, is, and usually hath been paid to fine. *Bacon.*

**NOBLE** liverwort. [Hepatica.] A plant.

The characters are: the root is fibrose and perennial;  
the leaf consists of three lobes on a pedicle, which arises  
from the root; as does the pedicle of the flower, which is  
naked and single; the cup of the flower is, for the most  
part, composed of one leaf sometimes cut into three or  
four deep divisions: the flower consists of many leaves, which  
expand in form of a rose: the fruit is globular, consisting  
of one single cell curved. *Miller.*

**NOBLEMAN**. *n. f.* [noble and man.] One who is ennobled.

If I blush,  
It is to see a nobleman want manners. *Shakesp. Hen. VIII.*

The nobleman is he, whose noble mind  
Is fill'd with inborn worth. *Dryden's Wife of Bath.*

**NOBLENESS**. *n. f.* [from noble.]

1. Greatness; worth; dignity; magnanimity.

The nobleness of life  
Is to do this; when such a mutual pair,  
And such a twain can do't. *Sha. f. Ant. and Cleopatra.*

Any thing  
That my ability may undergo,  
And nobleness impose. *Shakespeare's Winter's Tale.*

Learn him forbearance from so foul a wrong. *Shakesp.*

He that does as well in private between God and his own  
soul, as in public, hath given himself a good testimony that  
his purposes are full of honesty, nobleness, and integrity.  
*Taylor's Holy Living.*

Great-